

Introduction:

- Luke 24; John 4; John 9;
- Katy Texas: The youth thought I was a youth. I was saying to myself, "If you only knew..." I was not what they were expecting.
- *"Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."*" (John 4:10, NLT)
- The people we will be looking at this morning all had God encounters. They encountered Jesus. What is interesting is that none of them initially knew that it was Jesus. Which prompts me to ask the question: How is it that you can be with Jesus but not see Jesus?
 - I think there are many people who are actually having that same experience today.
 - I think there are many people who are expecting such big signs they drive right by the thing they are looking for. IE. Kelly who got pulled over for speeding. Officer: Why are you driving so fast ma'am? Kelly: I was trying to read street signs. Officer: Maybe if you would slow down you could see them to read them.
- A second interesting observation is that none of them could keep quiet having encountered/perceived it was Jesus. Which prompts the question: How is it you can know/perceive Jesus and actually keep quiet?
- Why we do not see Jesus when He is right in front of us? What keeps us from recognizing God when He is right here? 1) We are not looking for Him 2) We are not sure what to look for. 3) Disappointment/depressed 4) We are too religious so our expectations are limited. 5) Jesus is too normal.(we expect a big guy with a cape and giant "J" on His chest) 6) Our hearts are too hard, IE. Pharaoh, Goliath, Pharisee. 7) God is using His cloaking device.

I. The Damned Woman

- A. Why is she the damned woman?
 1. She is a Samaritan, and all good Jews know that Samaritans are going to hell.
 2. She is a divorced woman...four times worth of divorces.
 3. She is living with a man she is not married to. She gets around.
 4. Some people fail to recognize Jesus, when He is right in front of them because inside they see themselves as damned, as having no value, racked with such great shame...why would God even bother. I have talked with so many people through the years who saw themselves as so lost why would God bother? Racked with so much shame, why would God care? Their hearts are so full of pain they think that God does not care about them. They are not worth saving. So they are not looking for Him because in their eyes...He is not looking for them. That is lie! Watch!
- B. Note to Self: Jesus Comes to the woman. He does not have on the cloaking device! He wants her to see Him. To the person who does not know Jesus. Jesus must reveal Himself to them. It is the only way they will know. Jesus comes to the woman!

1. He goes where other believers will not go. Right through the middle of Samaria! He speaks to a woman who has no expectation of this Jew speaking to her. Why are you asking me for a drink?
2. His answer piques her curiosity for the purpose of getting her to think "Jesus replied, *"If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."*" (John 4:10, NLT) Let me move this verse around just a bit: **"If you only knew who was speaking to you** and the Gift God has for you...you would ask me and I would give your living water!" What is living water?
 - a) Living water is water that is moving. It is not a pond, puddle or lake.
 - b) It is water that is moving, it is a flow that never stops.
3. Jesus never refers to himself as the Living water but He promises to give it to those who ask. He is speaking of the Holy Spirit. (Jn 7:39) Do you hear what 'this stranger'/Jesus is offering this damned woman? This woman whose heart is hard and whose life is broken? Who has no sense of self worth? I WANT YOU TO LIVE! I want you to have the flow that comes from heaven, the very throne of God! Jesus comes to the one who cant recognize Him and begins to reveal who He is to her!
4. Woman: Do you think you are better than Jacob? Smiling!!! "If you only knew who was speaking to you and the Gift God is offering!" You drink the water I offer and it will become a **fresh, bubbling** spring within them giving eternal life! 4:14
 - a) the words 'springing up or bubbling up' are inadequate. *"the word in a compound form is used of the formerly lame man leaping up, (Acts 3:8). The verb is ἄλλομαι, which does not appear to be used elsewhere of the action of water. There may be the thought of the Spirit as working violently within a person."* Morris, L. (1995). NICNT John (p. 233). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. IE. Vision of the corners of building being fountains that flowed violently up as worship intensified.
 - b) We are talking gusher, Samaritan woman! Take one eternally damned, broken, shamed woman and add Living Water...Life enters in and that fountain will violently flow bringing the rule of God like you have never known! You will live, never be thirsty and will worship like never before! Abundant life!!! Jesus comes to the woman who has no clue who this stranger is. She is not looking for Him! He is looking for her!
5. She calls him a prophet but Samaritans do not acknowledge prophets after Moses. After Moses they believe for Messiah. That is why she calls him a prophet but brings up Messiah. Therefore Jesus says: vs 26 **I AM MESSIAH!**
 - a) That sent her running! She left so fast she forgot her water pot.
 - b) She brings the whole city out to see Jesus!

- c) When you get a revelation of Jesus you can not be quiet! You can't hoard the information. You gotta tell others about Him! It is the nature of faith to tell others about Him.
- d) The knowledge of God cannot lie buried and inactive. It is a violent fountain of living water that causes a born again person to jump up, running and leaping and praising God!

II. The Disappointed Followers

- A. *"That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. But God kept them from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces."* (Luke 24:13-17, NLT)
 - 1. It is amazing the conversations that God "eve drops" in on. He throws on His cloaking device pulls up beside them and begins listening. Maybe our words do matter.
 - 2. Now the big question in this passage is: Why would God want to keep them from recognizing Jesus? Why the cloaking device? Answer, *"It is God's privilege to conceal things and the king's privilege to discover them."* (Proverbs 25:2, NLT) [Kings-one who rules. He wants those of us who rule in Christ to find a key that opens a kingdom thing here.]
 - a) Something happens in our own hearts and minds when we discover something for ourselves. This is a 'set up' for discovery!
 - b) So if you are here as a believer this morning wondering where God is? Why didn't that work out? We had such great hopes too? Then this point is for you. Note to self: Jesus comes to these followers, for the purpose of revealing himself to them!
- B. These Followers could not see Jesus because He was cloaked. God wanted them to 'see' Him. But they were going to have to learn some things if they wanted to continue to see Him in the future. Why couldn't they see Jesus?
 - 1. Failed to understand what Jesus had been teaching for 3.5 years. (Lk 9:44-45 and Lk 18:31-34 are passages where Jesus was teaching his disciples that He would have to suffer and die before the Good News came. The Good News is that the King conquers death, hell and grave.
 - 2. They had failed to understand that in order for the reign of God to come Jesus would have to die. They had been given the Word but failed to take it to heart. Therefore God had to 'set them up' in order them to fully understand. You are watching two men who are literally part of an object lesson!
 - 3. Because they failed to keep the Word in front of them. They ended up:
 - a) sad - The world lost a good man a few days ago
 - b) disappointed - we had such great expectation of Him.
 - c) depressed - we lost all our hope when they executed Him

d) oh, and then these 'crazy' women came up with this story that they had seen him.

C. What is the problem here?

1. Their concern is with the past. And when your future outlook is based on the past disappointments, you won't see Jesus if He is standing right in front of you. You won't see Jesus if He is walking right beside you. Three times Luke refers to 'things': vs 14 they were talking about things. vs. 18 they accuse the stranger of not being aware of 'things' vs 19 The stranger asks, "what things?" Jesus is getting them talking. vs. 19 'The things' that happened to Jesus! If you are always looking at your past 'things' you will never see God's future for you!
2. God wants to deliver us from an outlook based on the past; to see a God who offers us a future and a hope. (Jer 29:11; 31:17) Their answer was right in front of them but they were so stuck in the past they could not see Him.
3. Cleopas and his companion do not know the identity of this fellow traveler. And they are astonished that he does not know of recent events. Cleopas refers to Jesus as the only uninformed person in Jerusalem. Isn't it interesting how much time we spend updating God in our praying. When in fact, Jesus is the only one who is genuinely "in the know." It pays to listen because when you listen to Jesus your heart will burn within you!
4. 'vs 30 at the table, Jesus' role shifts. He is no longer the honored guest but the host of the meal, and it is in this role that he distributes the bread' Green, J. B. (1997). NICNT Luke (p. 849). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. Maybe what Jesus is after is that you stop being the host! After all, you are His house! He is the host! Maybe then your eyes will open.

III. The Doomed Blind Man

- A. Religion keeps people from seeing Jesus.
 1. Religion hardens the heart because it is all about doing and not grace and mercy.
 2. Religion hardens the heart because it is about working the system and not walking with God.
 3. Religion keeps one from seeing God but it presents an inaccurate picture of God which results in people missing God when He is right in front of them.
- B. This man can't seem to win when he is blind or when he can see. Question: What happens when you have been touched by God and you do not know who touched you? So many have had that experience. "Wow did you see that? Did you feel that? What just happened?" NOTE TO SELF: JESUS COMES TO THIS BLIND MAN. IE. Like the eunuch in Acts who needed Philip to give him understanding.
 1. This guy hears but has no idea who is talking. These are people saved or lost who are having these God encounters. They like them but are not sure if it is God or what exactly they should do. They are encouraged but don't exactly know why.
 - a) First he hears Jesus talking to the disciples 9:2-5
 - b) Second, he sees and hears Jesus but does not recognize Him because he does not know what to expect, or who he is even looking for.
 2. The people

- a) Neighbors
 - b) Those who know him as beggar.
 - c) The interrogators
 - d) Pharisees
 - e) None will stand up for him out of fear of being put out of synagogue. The man is doomed.
 - f) vs. 34, the man doomed to blindness is healed and the man doomed expulsion from the synagogue is encountered by Jesus again.
- C. When people throw you out Jesus will come to you!
1. Faith is always a personal thing. And the one who believes will see Jesus and perceive that he is the Christ.
 2. This man believe and in 9:38 He worshiped.

Conclusion:

- If there is one thing I know about Jesus it is His desire for us to see Him!
- I also believe that Jesus has been walking with and standing with you and yet you have not recognized Him. What keeps you from recognizing God when He is right there in front of you?
 - Maybe the cloaking device is on and he wants you to look harder so that you discover Him.
 - Maybe you are disappointed and so past focused you cant see where Him in your future.
 - Maybe you are not familiar enough with the Word so you cant recognize Him
 - Maybe Jesus is just to normal for you. You are looking for a bigger sign.
 - Maybe your heart is just hard and you are not looking at all for Jesus.
- Invitation